

Group I, claims 1-9, drawn to a rubber latex composition;

Group II, claims 10-12, drawn to a proteolytic agent, which is used to form the rubber latex composition of the claims of Group I.

Election with Traverse

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, claims 1-9.

Reasons for Traversal

Applicants respectfully traverse the above-noted Restriction Requirement, since there is no undue or serious burden placed on the Patent Examiner to examine the subject matter of the claims of Group II (i.e., claims 10-12) in addition to the elected subject matter of the claims of Group I (i.e., claims 1-9). Specifically, the issues concerning the prior art search and examination of the claims of Group I significantly overlap with those of the issues of the claims of Group II, since the subject matter in both cases employs the proteolytic agent recited in the claims of Group II.

Therefore, it is requested that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully

requested to contact Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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